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Security Council

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Letter dated 16 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of October 2004 (see annex).

This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with members of the Council, pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), and should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom (October 2004)

Introduction

The Security Council had a busy programme of work in October 2004. Open debates were held on justice and the rule of law; on women, peace and security; on counter-terrorism; and the Middle East. Open briefings, open to all States Members of the United Nations, were held on the Sudan, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Great Lakes. The Council held two private meetings with troop-contributing countries. The Council also held 15 informal consultations of the whole and adopted four resolutions and four presidential statements.

Africa

Central African Republic

On 25 October the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamine Cissé, briefed the Council in informal consultations on the events in the Central African Republic since July 2004. Council members welcomed the extension of the United Nations Peace-building (BONUCA) Office mandate until December 2005 and called on the international community to provide financial support for the elections and to help consolidate the fragile peace in the Central African Republic. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/39) on 28 October.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 1 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1565 (2004) extending by six months the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and increasing its strength by 5,900 personnel.

Guinea-Bissau

In informal consultations on 22 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed Council members on the situation in Guinea-Bissau since the 10 October memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government and the mutinous soldiers. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was closely engaged. The top priorities for the Government were civil service salary arrears, security sector reform and economic reconstruction. Council members agreed that the root causes of the conflict had to be tackled and that a coordinated response was needed involving all relevant United Nations bodies.

Great Lakes

In an open meeting on 27 October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Ibrahima Fall, briefed the Security Council on preparations for the first Summit of the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region in Dar Es Salaam on 19 and 20 November. Mr. Fall said that the Summit was expected to agree on a Declaration of Principles on the Consolidation of Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region. It would set up a Standing Inter-Ministerial Committee to turn these principles into plans of action before the second Summit, scheduled to be held in Nairobi in 2005. The Nairobi Summit would adopt a Stability, Security and Development Pact for the Great Lakes region. Council members looked forward to implementation of the Conference outcomes and encouraged full participation by representatives of civil society.

Liberia

Council members reviewed the sanctions on Liberia in informal consultations on 7 October. Ambassador Akram of Pakistan, Chairman of the Liberia sanctions committee, briefed Council members on the latest report by the panel of experts and committee members' views on it. Council members welcomed partial progress towards meeting the conditions for lifting the diamond and timber sanctions, but concluded that the conditions had not yet been fully met. They emphasized that the sanctions were not intended to be punitive, and encouraged the National Transitional Government of Liberia to make further progress by the next review in December.

Somalia

In informal consultations on 26 October, Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General's Representative, Winston Tubman, on the Secretary-General's report of 8 October and on more recent developments in the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference. Mr. Tubman described progress in the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference as significant and urged international support. In view of the precarious situation inside Somalia, Mr. Tubman recommended an incremental increase in the role of the United Nations calibrated to political progress and security. Council members concluded that, while serious challenges remained in Somalia, there were some signs of light at the end of the tunnel. Council members later adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/38) in which they reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, looked forward to the formation, in the near future, of a Transitional Federal Government inside Somalia, and commended States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in particular the Government of Kenya, the African Union, as well as other countries and organizations for constructively supporting the Somali national reconciliation process.

Sudan

On 5 October the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk, briefed the Security Council on the Secretary-General's reports on Darfur for September and the Naivasha process. It was Mr. Pronk's assessment that the Government of the Sudan had made virtually no further progress in September on security, disarmament and tackling impunity in Darfur. Council members expressed

concern at the continued lack of progress and agreed that the size and mandate of the African Union mission in Darfur should be expanded. Members also called for more international assistance to the African Union. Mr. Pronk also briefed the Council on the status of the talks in Naivasha and stressed the importance of reaching agreement. Mr. Pronk suggested a Security Council mission to Nairobi to underline this message to the parties.

On 26 October the Council adopted resolution 1569 (2004) formalizing its decision to hold a meeting in Nairobi on 18 and 19 November to discuss the Sudan and other peace efforts in the region, following an initiative taken by the United States Mission to propose the event.

Western Sahara

The Security Council held consultations on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) on 26 October. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Alvaro de Soto, introduced the Secretary-General's report and described to the Council the ways in which he had tried to move the process forward. On 28 October the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1570 (2004) to extend MINURSO for six months.

Americas

Haiti

The Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Hédi Annabi, on the violence in Haiti and the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Members called for more troop contributions, political dialogue and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Haiti.

Asia

Afghanistan

The Council heard a briefing on 12 October by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Hédi Annabi, on Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election. Mr. Annabi told the Council that no violent incidents had been reported and the popular verdict on the election, which took place on 9 October, had been overwhelmingly positive. Initial estimates indicated a high turnout. Counting was expected to last for several weeks. Mr. Annabi commended the role of the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. He also informed the Council that the United Nations/Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body had established a panel to investigate reports of irregularities, including with regard to the use of indelible ink. Council members hailed the elections as a historic landmark in the Afghan political process and welcomed the secure environment in which voting had taken place. Members also called for attention now to focus on preparations for parliamentary elections. On 12 October the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/35), welcoming the elections; congratulating the Afghans, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Joint

Electoral Management Body; and calling for preparations for parliamentary elections to get under way soon.

Bougainville

Council members heard a briefing on 11 October by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, on the latest developments in Bougainville. He reported that over 94 per cent of all contained weapons had been destroyed. On a less positive note, he predicted that elections would not be possible until March/April 2005. Council members recognized the important role of the United Nations in the peace process and welcomed progress on weapons' destruction. There was broad agreement on the need for a closure plan for the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB).

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The Security Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East on 4 October at which Algeria introduced a draft resolution. The Council voted on the draft resolution on 5 October, but failed to adopt it. Subsequently the Council heard a regular briefing by Sir Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on 22 October. In the informal consultations that followed, Council members discussed ways in which to reinvigorate the peace process and bring both parties back to the road map. In a brief statement to the press following consultations, the President highlighted the concerns of the Security Council at the lack of progress on the Middle East peace process and urged both parties to begin to implement, as soon as possible, the provisions of the road map.

On 5 October and 6 October the Permanent Representative of Lebanon and the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic each sent a letter to the President of the Council, explaining their positions on Security Council resolution 1559 (2004). The Council discussed the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/777) on 8 October. Terje Roed-Larsen, the Secretary-General's Coordinator for the Middle East, introduced the Secretary-General's report and reiterated the Secretary-General's conclusion that the requirements of the resolution had not been met. In discussion, members differed on the full implementation and on the need for follow-up. On 19 October the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/36) in response to the Secretary-General's report.

Iraq

On 1 October the Security Council replied to the Secretary-General's letter dated 21 September 2004 concerning the integrated United Nations security structure for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Council welcomed the arrangements set out in the Secretary-General's letter and urged Member States to respond positively with contributions.

On 14 October, members of the Security Council were briefed by the President of the Security Council on a meeting with Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). Council members were told that Mr. Perricos had met with Charles Duelfer of the Iraq Survey Group on 8 October to discuss the contents

of the report of the Iraq Survey Group issued on 6 October. Mr. Perricos had also indicated that the next UNMOVIC quarterly report would be released to the Council on 1 December 2004.

Europe

Cyprus

On 11 October Council members heard a briefing by the Secretary-General's Acting Special Adviser in Cyprus and Chief of Mission, Zbigniew Wlosowicz, on the Secretary-General's latest report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), including his recommendations for the reconfiguration of the UNFICYP mandate. On 22 October, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1568 (2004), endorsing the Secretary-General's recommendations and extending the UNFICYP mandate until 15 June 2005. The Security Council held a meeting with UNFICYP troop-contributing countries on 8 October.

Georgia

Council members discussed the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, in informal consultations on 27 October. Special Representative Heidi Tagliavini briefed Council members on the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and on developments since the report. The peace process had reached a virtual standstill. There were reasons for cautious optimism, but everything depended on a resumption of negotiations between the parties. Council members were unanimous in their concern at the state of the peace process and expressed hope that the next meeting of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General would move it forward.

Other issues

Counter-terrorism

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1566 (2004) on terrorism on 8 October. It is expected to give fresh impetus to United Nations work on counter-terrorism and to encourage coordination between different Security Council bodies dealing with terrorism.

Ambassador Denisov, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), briefed Council members on the achievements of the CTC at an open meeting on 19 October. He stressed the importance of making the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate operational as soon as possible and called on Member States to continue to meet their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001).

Humanitarian affairs

On 21 October Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, briefed the Council on the humanitarian situations in northern Uganda and the Darfur region of the Sudan. On northern Uganda, Mr. Egeland described the situation as the world's greatest neglected emergency and advocated a peaceful solution to the conflict. He highlighted the plight of the internally displaced persons and the impact of the conflict on children. On Darfur, Mr. Egeland drew attention to

the deteriorating security situation and the increase in humanitarian needs. Additionally, Mr. Egeland stressed the importance of early deployment of the expanded African Union mission; ending attacks against civilians; and making progress on a political settlement. Chad and Guinea were also mentioned in the context of early warning, where the deteriorating humanitarian situations had potential implications for regional stability.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

On 14 October the Council adopted resolution 1567 (2004), thereby forwarding the nominations of judicial candidates for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the General Assembly for elections scheduled on 18 November 2004.

Justice and rule of law

The Council met in an Arria-formula meeting under Chilean chairmanship on 30 September to be briefed on justice and rule of law issues by representatives of the International Centre for Transitional Justice, William O'Neill (an independent consultant), the International Peace Academy, and Amnesty International. This dialogue informed the Council in preparation for the open meeting on justice and the rule of law on 6 October. At that meeting, the Council was addressed by the Secretary-General, Juan Mendez (Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide) and Mark Malloch-Brown (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme). There were 45 speakers, both Council and non-Council members. The Council adopted a presidential statement reaffirming the vital importance which it attaches to promoting justice and the rule of law, and urging the United Nations Secretariat to make proposals for implementation of the recommendations set out in the Secretary-General's report of 3 August 2004.

Women, peace and security

The Council held an open debate on 28 October to mark the fourth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The debate focused on gender-based violence in conflict situations. Jean-Marie Guéhenno (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping), Louise Arbour (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), Thoraya Obaid (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), Noeleen Heyzer (Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women) and Agathe Rwankuba (from a women's organization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) spoke. The Council adopted a presidential statement. Benin hosted an Arria-style meeting prior to the debate at which several non-governmental organizations, including from the Sudan, Rwanda and the Balkans, addressed different aspects of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Other events

Sierra Leone

On 27 October the President of the Security Council co-chaired, with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, an open meeting to launch the final report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation

Commission. The Deputy Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, Mohamed Kamara, made a speech and formally handed over a copy of the Commission's report. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, underlined the importance of children's testimony and recommendations for the future. The Permanent Representatives of Ghana and Nigeria also spoke, Ghana being the current chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Nigeria holding the chairmanship of the African Union.